



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
CANBERRA

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## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, MARCH 1976

### MAIN FEATURES

- In March 1976 there were 272 industrial disputes involving 71,300 employees and resulting in a loss of 242,600 working days.
- The main disputes during the month involved –
  - Teachers in Victoria
  - Storemen in wool stores
  - Transport workers employed by airlines
- The working days lost in the March quarter 1976 were higher than for the same period in 1975 but lower than in 1973 and 1974. Working days lost in the March quarter in recent years are –

1976	506,000
1975	323,000
1974	2.5 million
1973	562,000

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

This bulletin contains statistics of industrial disputes for the month of March 1976 and some previous periods. More information about these disputes will appear later in the detailed quarterly bulletin *Industrial Disputes* (Reference No. 6.6).

2. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), described in the Bureau publication *Australian Standard Industrial Classification (Preliminary Edition)*, 1969, Vol. 1. Statistics on this basis are published in *Labour Report* No. 58, 1973 (Reference No. 6.7).

3. The statistics of industrial disputes refer only to

disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more. Workers involved include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are employees thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but not themselves parties to the dispute. Particulars of some stoppages (e.g. those involving a large number of establishments) may be estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving a broad measure of the extent of stoppages of work (as defined).

4. Stoppages of work occurring at different times and at different establishments, but due to the same cause may be regarded as one industrial dispute. However, an industrial dispute occurring in more than one State is counted as a separate dispute in each State. A dispute involving workers in more than one industry in a State or Territory is counted only once in the number of disputes – in the industry that has the largest number of workers involved; but workers involved, working days lost and estimated loss in wages are allocated to their respective industries. Disputes not settled at the end of a year are included as new disputes in the figures for the following year. The monthly statistics refer to all disputes operative in the month, including those disputes that commenced in previous months. In Table 1 details of the number of disputes and workers involved are shown separately for disputes beginning in the month and for all disputes. Average days lost per worker involved on a monthly basis are not comparable with the yearly averages, because workers involved are included in each month in which they are involved in disputes, while they are counted once only for each dispute in the annual figures. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

5. For statistics of industrial disputes for earlier periods see *Labour Report* No. 58, 1973 (Reference No. 6.7).

NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr Godfrey Laurie on 52 6573 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

TABLE 1. - INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost		Estimated loss in wages (a) (\$'000)
	Beginning in month	Total (a)	Beginning in month	Total (a)	Number (a) ('000)	Average days per worker involved (b)	
1971	..	2,404	..	1,326.5	3,068.6	2.3	45,241.3
1972	..	2,298	..	1,113.8	2,010.3	1.8	32,074.4
1973	..	2,538	..	803.0	2,634.7	3.3	45,206.5
1974	..	2,809	..	2,004.8	6,292.5	3.1	128,301.8
1975	..	2,432	..	1,398.0	3,509.9	2.5	95,760.7
1975 -							
March	182	211	70.7	81.7	169.1	2.1	4,621.8
April	246	256	288.7	290.9	416.3	1.4	11,144.7
May	283	330	144.3	366.0	504.6	1.4	13,719.6
June	174	239	147.9	413.2	635.3	1.5	17,157.5
July	316	340	129.0	380.0	557.6	1.5	15,521.5
August	209	269	44.5	74.9	292.8	3.9	8,218.9
September	176	219	55.2	78.6	264.9	3.4	7,566.8
October	212	238	98.3	115.6	206.1	1.4	5,477.3
November	153	182	312.7	322.3	270.1	0.8	7,289.5
December	86	103	11.5	15.2	39.7	2.6	1,090.6
1976 -							
January (c)	122	122	16.8	16.8	71.2	4.2	2,091.0
February (c)	234	261	64.6	69.7	192.7	2.8	5,624.8
March (c)	236	272	63.3	71.3	242.6	3.4	6,861.7

(a) Refers to all disputes operative and workers involved in the period — see paragraph 4, page 1. (b) Monthly figures are not comparable with yearly figures — see paragraph 4, page 1. (c) Subject to revision.

TABLE 2. - INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES (a), AUSTRALIA  
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (b)

Period	Manufacturing						Transport and storage; communication		
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment (c)	Other	Construction	Stevedoring services	Other	Other industries	All industries
	Coal	Other							
1971	251.6	83.2	636.7	317.7	1,109.5	73.9	300.1	295.9	3,064.6
1972	60.8	62.0	620.2	393.7	407.8	39.2	205.2	221.3	2,013.3
1973	87.5	155.3	800.8	661.4	439.3	49.5	93.2	347.6	2,617.7
1974	163.0	146.5	2,850.8	756.7	1,188.7	111.1	516.2	559.4	6,295.5
1975	343.3	90.0	1,279.2	464.1	497.0	46.2	146.7	643.5	3,509.9
1975 -									
March	8.1	1.3	40.0	22.3	50.4	2.0	7.8	37.2	161
April	10.9	7.3	116.4	24.4	45.1	3.6	13.5	195.1	413
May	36.8	7.6	177.2	78.1	65.8	6.3	7.2	125.4	516
June	45.8	12.2	387.2	44.4	71.3	2.5	11.4	60.5	553
July	100.3	11.5	196.4	51.3	124.2	2.5	26.7	44.7	556
August	55.5	15.0	77.5	61.1	46.2	2.1	4.6	30.7	258
September	72.0	9.9	83.5	23.8	14.7	1.7	27.0	32.2	269
October	2.2	4.9	83.5	44.9	16.9	6.3	11.9	35.5	201
November	3.0	9.1	75.1	62.1	33.6	10.8	30.8	45.5	211
December	1.5	2.1	9.8	20.5	1.7	1.4	2.0	0.7	17
1976 -									
January (d)	0.9	20.3	5.6	29.9	10.3	0.1	1.4	2.5	12
February (d)	13.1	19.8	45.8	55.7	28.3	4.2	3.3	22.6	157
March (d)	10.7	6.8	36.5	54.8	32.2	0.5	18.5	82.7	246

(a) Australian Standard Industrial Classification — see paragraph 2, page 1. (b) Refers to all disputes operative in the period — see paragraph 4, page 1. (c) Includes ASIC sub-divisions 29, 31, 32, 33. (d) Subject to revision.

TABLE 3. - INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES  
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (a)

<i>Period</i>	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>Aust. (b)</i>
1971	1,887.5	689.6	271.4	111.2	69.4	20.6	3,068.6
1972	866.8	638.4	292.2	60.9	94.6	19.2	2,010.3
1973	1,098.1	780.5	320.2	130.6	117.3	140.1	2,634.7
1974	2,665.0	2,386.6	529.5	316.5	256.9	88.5	6,292.5
1975	1,477.8	1,221.7	473.3	127.6	100.7	40.6	3,509.9
1973 -							
March	110.0	47.4	18.8	15.2	10.2	28.5	231.7
April	42.9	92.8	18.2	5.7	11.7	9.5	192.0
May	125.6	94.2	56.2	7.9	7.2	12.4	304.3
June	158.5	91.1	75.6	3.0	8.7	18.8	363.7
July	90.8	102.0	17.1	4.2	9.2	1.6	225.0
August	113.0	33.7	42.8	7.1	15.7	2.5	218.6
September	91.2	83.2	25.1	6.8	4.3	0.2	215.9
October	110.3	87.3	14.9	15.3	12.9	1.8	245.2
November	125.2	44.6	27.4	23.3	21.0	8.5	257.9
December	10.8	6.5	3.4	24.7	0.8	3.6	49.8
1974 -							
January	30.9	7.5	6.4	1.3	5.9	0.2	53.6
February	253.4	125.7	13.2	16.1	5.0	1.1	418.1
March	1,063.1	728.0	45.8	99.1	8.6	54.1	2,011.3
April	351.4	454.8	67.2	37.2	16.8	5.2	936.1
May	252.0	189.1	44.3	52.2	11.4	4.4	559.6
June	108.7	94.4	7.3	7.4	12.1	3.0	235.1
July	117.3	214.7	136.2	37.8	11.8	4.6	526.2
August	215.0	400.2	127.7	34.6	28.9	1.5	816.3
September	116.7	73.9	25.2	18.4	17.7	1.4	255.1
October	46.3	49.2	19.7	6.3	105.5	11.3	238.6
November	69.0	31.5	27.2	5.2	25.3	1.4	161.8
December	41.3	17.6	9.4	1.0	7.9	0.1	80.5
1975 -							
January	15.1	7.5	7.1	3.1	4.0	0.1	36.9
February	54.5	15.8	32.6	4.3	6.0	0.4	116.7
March	119.6	18.9	24.0	2.6	1.6	0.5	169.1
April	281.6	91.4	16.2	5.2	9.7	1.9	416.3
May	218.7	215.7	31.5	10.9	15.7	2.2	504.6
June	280.2	217.3	65.8	24.9	14.4	8.3	635.3
July	210.9	208.6	80.0	26.7	10.4	12.0	557.6
August	91.6	109.8	57.2	14.4	8.1	8.1	292.8
September	86.5	90.6	66.4	9.3	6.9	2.1	264.9
October	67.7	75.2	35.6	16.9	7.1	2.7	206.1
November	37.5	152.8	54.8	7.6	14.1	1.4	270.1
December	13.8	18.2	2.3	1.7	2.7	1.0	39.7
1976 -							
January (c)	14.8	20.5	5.3	0.8	22.0	7.8	71.2
February (c)	107.7	31.3	16.2	4.1	24.0	8.7	192.7
March (c)	93.4	110.5	14.5	11.5	9.1	0.6	242.6

(a) Refers to all disputes operative in the period — see paragraph 4, page 1. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) Subject to revision.

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